WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORTS

OF THE

Town of Weston,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 31, 1864.

BOSTON:
J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 81 CORNHILL.
1864.

OFFICERS

OF

THE TOWN OF WESTON,

1864.

Selectmen,

ALONZO S. FISKE, INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.
HORACE HEWS.

Overseers of the Poor,

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN,
MARSHALL CUTTING.

School Committee,

CALVIN H. TOPLIFF, 2 years, EDWIN HOBBS, 1 year,
ISAAC COBURN, 3 years.

Library Committee,

BENJAMIN F. MORRISON, CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,
NAHUM SMITH.

Librarian,

JOHN COBURN.

Assessors,

ALONZO S. FISKE, ABIJAH COBURN,
EDWIN HOBBS.

Town Clerk,

GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

Treasurer and Collector,

HORACE HEWS.

Constables,

HORACE HEWS, GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

Surveyors of Highways,

MARSHALL S. UPHAM,	District	No. 1.
EDWARD E. BROWN,	"	" 2.
ELI E. BEMIS,	"	" 3.
ALONZO S. FISKE,	"	" 4.
	"	" 5.
SAMUEL F. CLARKE,	"	" 6.

Measurers of Wood and Bark,

GEORGE W. CUTTING, EDWIN HOBBS,	District	No. 1.
ISAAC H. JONES,	"	" 2.
GEORGE W. DUNN,	"	" 3.
GEORGE GARFIELD, WILLIAM H. FLOYD,	"	" 4.
GEORGE B. CUTTER,	"	" 5.
SAMUEL F. CLARK,	"	" 6.

Surveyors of Lumber,

GEORGE GARFIELD, GEORGE W. CUTTING.

Fence Viewers,

NATHAN BARKER, ALONZO S. FISKE,
EDWIN HOBBS.

Pound Keeper,

GEORGE W. CUTTING.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF WESTON.

THE Selectmen of the town of Weston for the year ending March 7th, 1864, submit the following Report.

At the Annual Meeting in April last, by vote, the town instructed the Selectmen to incorporate in their report, to be made in March in each year, an estimate of the sum required to meet the current expenses of the town for the ensuing year. In accordance with that vote, an estimate has been prepared. But let us first glance at the financial condition of the town. It is gratifying to be able to state that while the permanent debt has been decreased only about $300, in addition to the payment of the interest on the whole debt and the current expenses, the Treasurer has paid on State and United States account over $1,300, all of which, in due course, will be returned to the Treasury. The debt at the present time consists of $8,450 in scrip, with coupons attached, payable May 1st, 1873; $3,500 payable Sept. 5th, 1867, and $1,000 payable August 4th, 1865, all at 5 per cent.; $200 due soldiers now in the service, and $1,300 the Library Fund, at 6 per cent.; making the whole debt, $14,450.

While the war continues, which one year ago many cherished the hope would ere this have been brought to a close, and which is the prolific cause of so much expenditure, and in the present unsettled state of the currency, we find it impossible to estimate the expenses the ensuing year with any degree of certainty. But

we would recommend a grant of $5,700, to meet the expenses of the town the ensuing year, and that the above sum be appropriated as follows, viz. :—

For Schools, ...		$1,700 00
" Highways, ...		1,000 00
To be divided between the Districts proportionally as last year, viz. :—		
To District No. 1, $24\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., making .	242 50	
" " " 2, 21 " " .	210 00	
" " " 3, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " " .	75 00	
" " " 4, $18\frac{3}{4}$ " " .	187 50	
" " " 5, $18\frac{3}{4}$ " " .	187 50	
" " " 6, $9\frac{3}{4}$ " " .	97 50	
For bridges and extra repairs on roads, . .		200 00
" interest on debt, ...		750 00
" support of poor, ...		600 00
" repairs on town buildings, ...		200 00
" incidental expenses, ...		200 00
" library, ...		50 00
" town officers, ...		500 00
" discount on taxes, ...		500 00
		$5,700 00

We would also recommend that the sum of $550, with something we hope saved from the above estimate, be appropriated for the payment of the debt when it shall fall due ; making, in all, for current expenses and the extinguishment of the town debt, the same sum as was raised last year, viz., $6,250 00.

Our taxes are, and must be, large for years to come, yet when we see our citizens voluntarily taxing themselves, as the past season, to an amount equal to one half their last year's assessment, for the patriotic purpose of placing men in the service of their country, we can but feel that they will bear the burden of taxation for necessary expenditures with cheerfulness and with gratitude to an overruling Providence, which has thus far preserved

the loyal States in an unexampled degree of prosperity in time of war, and their territory from the march of contending armies, and all the devastation and misery attending their course, and has granted such signal success to our armies in the field during the past year.

For the exact state of our financial affairs, and the items of expenditure the past year, you are referred to the Treasurer's Report.

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.
HORACE HEWS,
} *Selectmen of Weston.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE undersigned, Treasurer of Weston, herewith submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

WESTON, MARCH, 15, 1864.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the Treasury, March 31, 1863, . .	$237 09	
Peter Renton, for land deeded to him by the Town,	5 00	
Sundry persons, tax omitted, ...	8 53	
Harvard Bank, interest on deposit, . . .	6 24	
Burial lots, ...	2 00	
Joel Upham, Liquor Agent, ...	6 85	
Nathan Hagar, Town Clerk, dog licenses, . .	23 00	
Rent of Town Hall, ...	31 25	
Accrued interest on bonds sold, ...	30 96	
State of Massachusetts, School Fund, . . .	47 77	
" " " in adjustment of bounties refunded, ...	436 94	
" " " State Aid refunded, . .	407 48	
Town of Waltham, bounty refunded, . . .	100 00	
Town bonds sold, ...	8,450 00	
Temporary loan, ...	300 00	
Simeon W. Brown, Tax Receipts, . . .	20 80	
Horace Hews, Collector, Tax Receipts, 1862, .	336 51	
" " " " " 1863, .	9,521 39	
		$19,971 81

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES.

Public schools, ...	$1,747 77
Support of the poor, ...	711 84
Repair of highways, ...	829 36
Bridges, and extra repairs on roads, ...	53 00
Repairs of town buildings, ...	335 98
Appropriation for library, ...	50 00
Volunteers and their families, ...	1,114 58
Loans and interest, ...	9,535 62
Amount carried forward,	$14,378 15

Amount brought up,	$14,378 15	
Incidental expenses,	364 58	
Services of town officers,	487 41	
Paid recruiting "	363 99	
State tax,	2,712 00	
County tax,	835 79	
Discount on taxes,	489 36	
Abatement of taxes,	280 87	
Balance on hand,	59 66	
		$19,971 81

ITEMS of Expenditure under the several heads.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Paid School Committee,		$1,747 77

[For items of Expenditure, see Report of School Committee.]

Appropriation,	$1,700 00
School Fund,	47 77

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid to Overseers of the Poor,		$711 84

[For items of Expenditure, see Report of Overseers of Poor.]

Appropriation,	$600 00
Additional do.,	111 84

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Marshall L. Upham, District No. 1,	$205 00	
Luther S. Upham, " " 2,	166 07	
Eli E. Bemis, " " 3,	61 79	
Alonzo S. Fiske, " " 4,	160 00	
Stephen Seaverns, " " 5,	156 50	
Samuel F. Clark, " " 6,	80 00	
		$829 36

Appropriation,	$800 00
Additional do.,	29 36

BRIDGES AND EXTRA REPAIRS ON ROADS.

Increase Leadbetter, Jr., for repairing road near the Weston Cottage,	$29 70	
Horace Hews, for culvert and grading road near burying ground,	23 30	
		$53,00

Appropriation,	$100 00
Balance unexpended,	47 00

REPAIRS OF TOWN BUILDINGS, AND GENERAL PURCHASES FOR SCHOOLS AND TOWN HALL.

School Committee, for repairs and purchases,		$18 00	
Crosby & Nichols, for ink and crayons,		5 90	
Joseph L. Ross, for school furniture,		3 50	
M. C. Warren, sash line,		46	
Emptying vault and cleaning school-room,		3 50	
J. M. Hewes, for printing report cards,		3 40	
Wm. G. Shattuck, for chairs, and repairing settees,		8 75	
Calvin H. Topliff, repairs on pump, door-spring, window cord, books, &c.,		18 02	
Royal Gilkey, sheathing for hearse-house,		8 67	
Fitz A. Robinson, labor on hearse-house and repairing fence,		5 60	
Luther Fuller, relaying wall,		1 75	
Alonzo S. Fiske, for stone posts, and for grading around town-house,		43 00	
Theodore Jones, for gravel,		4 41	
Horace Hews, for labor and material for fence,		54 95	
James Keyes, lamps for town-hall,		19 87	
Alonzo S. Fiske, wood for town-hall,		17 25	
George W. Cutting & Son, sundries for town-house and school houses,		72 95	
George W. Walker, stove for High School,		46 00	
			$335 98
Appropriation,	$150 00		
Additional do.,	185 98		

LIBRARY.

For the Weston Town Library,			$50 00
Appropriation,	$50 00		

VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

State aid,		$997 68	
Special aid,		30 00	
Calvin H. Topliff, for recovering, embalming and transporting the body of Edmond L. Cutter, for assistance rendered Daniel Robinson, and examination in prospect of recovering the body of James N. Fairchild, killed at Port Hudson,		86 90	
			$1,114 58

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

James S. Draper, for surveying, and plans of private way,	$6 00
Josiah Hastings, printing dog notices,	2 00
Library Committee, expenses in purchasing library books,	4 00
J. M. Hewes, for printing Annual Reports and certificate of Town Scrip,	72 80
Amount carried forward,	$84 80

Amount brought up,		$84 80	
Calvin H. Topliff, for advertising and postage in relation to High School teacher,		8 55	
Charles Brackett, for re-binding school books,		3 37	
Town of Lincoln, tax, 1863,		8 27	
Josiah Hastings, order book,		3 50	
Edwards & Kershaw, iron safe for Town Clerk,		210 00	
Amos Carter, freight of safe,		4 00	
Horace Hews, internal revenue and postage stamps, copy of Revised Statutes, recording minutes of election, trunk for Collector, and other items,		24 22	
Joel Upham, iron work,		1 87	
Alonzo S. Fiske, postage, stationery, &c.		10 80	
Theodore Jones, returning deaths, and other items,		2 20	
Brooks & Stone, for professional services,		3 00	
			$364 58
Appropriation,	$200 00		
Additional do.,	164 58		

LOANS.

Loans paid sundry persons,			$8,735 00

INTEREST.

Sundry persons interest on loans,			$800 62
Appropriation,	$800 00		
Additional do.,		62	

SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Nathan Hagar, School Committee,		$25 00	
Edwin Hobbs, " "		25 00	
C. H. Topliff, " "		25 00	
Alonzo S. Fiske, Assessor,		46 00	
Abijah Coburn, "		17 00	
Benjamin Peirce, "		17 00	
Joel Upham, Liquor Agent,		30 00	
Alonzo S. Fiske, Selectman,		30 00	
Increase Leadbetter, Jr., "		26 00	
Horace Hews, "		30 00	
Estate of Nathan Hagar, for his services as School Committee and Town Clerk,		35 93	
James E. Keyes, care of Town-hall,		27 40	
Otis E. Hunt, as Town Clerk,		5 78	
George W. Cutting, Jr., fees as constable,		7 30	
Horace Hews, Collector and Treasurer,		140 00	
			$487 41
Appropriation,	$400 00		
Additional do.,	87 41		

DISCOUNTS.

Discounts on taxes paid prior to Oct. 1,		$449 93	
" " " to Jan. 1, 1864,		39 43	
			$489 36
Appropriation,	$500 00		
Balance unexpended,	10 64		

STATE TAX.		$2,712 00
COUNTY TAX.		$835 79

RECRUITING OFFICERS.

Recruiting volunteers, ...	$327 99	
Revision of roll, ...	36 00	
		$363 99

ABATEMENTS.

Taxes abated, (Simeon W. Brown,) . . .	$20 80	
" " Horace Hews, Collector, 1862, .	97 59	
" " " " " 1863, .	162 48	
		$280 87

CASH ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury, ...	$59 66	
Taxes uncollected, 1861, ...	4 76	
" " 1862, ...	27 19	
" " 1863, ...	444 71	
		$536 32

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town-house.
Six School-houses.
Alms-house and eighty acres of land, with stock and tools.
Six ploughs and scrapers, for use of Highway Surveyors.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN.

Real Estate, ...	$542,883 00	
Personal Estate, ...	465,300 00	
		$1,008,183 00

STATE, COUNTY AND TOWN TAX.

Amount of taxes assessed in 1863, ...	$9,966 10

Rate per cent. $9.30 per $1,000.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We, the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account, and find the same well vouched and rightly cast.

ALONZO S. FISKE, } *Selectmen*
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR. } *of Weston.*

REPORT

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

THE Overseers of the Poor of Weston submit to the town the following Report of the Expenditures and Receipts of the pauper establishment for the year ending March 1st, 1864.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received from sale of beef, pork and calves, .	$221 10
" " " hay and straw, . .	107 63
" " " butter, poultry and eggs,	85 56
" " " wood, and sundry articles sold,	87 57
" " from labor of Superintendent, &c. .	19 30
" " " City of Charlestown, for assistance rendered Sarah Hayes, .	4 42
" " " Treasury, ...	711 84
	$1,237 42

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid Henry Wheeler, Superintendent, for one year's services, ending March 1, 1864,	$225 00
" for oxen, ...	110 00
" for cows, ...	62 00
" for shoats, ...	13 90
" for clothing and bedding, . . .	45 27
" E. Coburn, for meat, ...	86 31
" J. W. Parmenter, for coal, . . .	38 65
" for labor, ...	27 37
" for manure, ...	40 44
" for blacksmithing, ...	12 86
Amount carried forward,	$661 80

	Amount brought up,	$661 80
Cash paid for wheelwrighting,		5 70
" for grass seed,		6 47
" for harness repairs, &c.,		8 28
" for horse rake, cultivator, and tools for farm,		10 00
" for repairs on barn,		6 18
" Dr. Hunt, for medical services,		20 00
" expense of Wm. Fiske at Brattleboro', one year,		116 00
" City of Charlestown, assistance rendered wife of Wm. Fiske,		3 00
" Town of Saugus, for assistance rendered Charles A. Hobbs and family,		63 64
" Town of Rehoboth, for support of children of Almira Bemis,		33 28
" for legal advice on account of, and removal of children of Almira Bemis to Almshouse,		32 46
" for assistance rendered Mrs. William Harrington,		27 75
" for groceries and sundry articles furnished establishment,		212 86
" Overseers, for their services,		30 00
		$1,237 42

The number of inmates now in the Almshouse is six, viz. :—

Elias Patch,	Thomas Farwell,	Frank Bemis,
William Patch,	Cooper Garfield,	Ella Bemis.

All of whom, with the exception of Farwell, are unable to perform any labor.

William Fiske remains at the Insane Hospital at Brattleboro'. The number assisted out of the Almshouse the past year has been seventeen.

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,
MARSHAL CUTTING,
EDWARD COBURN,
Overseers of the Poor.

REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE Library Committee for the past year herewith submit their Annual Report.

Balance in the Treasury, April 1, 1863, . .	$63 84
Interest from Fund, ...	78 00
Appropriation of the Town, ...	50 00
Received for fines, ...	5 69
We have paid for books, ...	121 88
" " " for putting up extra shelves in Library,	3 00
" " " Librarian's salary, ...	40 00
We have now in the Treasury, ...	28 40
Number of volumes added during the year, . .	142
" " purchased, ...	114
Whole number of volumes now in Library, . .	2,200
Number of volumes on shelves, ready for circulation,	1,950
" " taken out during the year, .	5,623

Books have been donated to the library during the year, by Hon. Henry Wilson, Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Charles R. Train, Lewis Gourgas, Esq., Charles Jones, Esq., and Charles Merriam, Esq.

Appended to the Report is the usual catalogue of books added during the year; and, in addition to those there named, there are some twenty-five or thirty Public Documents, which, on account of lack of room, have been stowed away, with many others, until

such time as there is a convenient place to put them, and have never been catalogued and prepared for circulation.

It will be noticed that the interest of the community in this Institution has in no degree fallen off from that of former years. The number of volumes given out by the librarian during the year is slightly in advance of last year, and has rarely, if ever, been exceeded. Taking into consideration that the novelty of the thing has now completely worn off, intrinsic value is argued by this fact, and a thorough adaptation to the wants of the town.

The room in which the library is at present kept, is, as is well known, entirely insufficient for that purpose. It is too small for the actual *needs* of the library, to say nothing of convenience. Several hundred volumes—nearly one fifth part of the whole number—are now piled, packed and tucked away for this reason, and are, in a measure, inaccessible to the public.

BENJAMIN F. MORRISON,
CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,
NAHUM SMITH,
} *Library Committee.*

March, 1864.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER.

THE undersigned, Treasurer of the Weston Town Library, herewith submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1864.

RECEIPTS.

1863.		
April 1.	Balance from former account,	$63 84
	Town of Weston, interest on Library Fund,	78 00
	Appropriation of the Town for Library,	50 00
	Received of Librarian, fines,	5 69
		$197 53

EXPENDITURES.

Paid Crosby & Nichols, for books,	$110 23
" Charles A. Brackett, for rebinding books,	8 40
" Thomas Groom & Co., for blank books,	2 75
" Calvin H. Topliff, for expenses in making purchases, and for paper for covering books,	4 25
" Express charges,	50
" A. Bruce, shelves for Library,	3 00
" Librarian's salary,	40 00
Balance in Treasury,	28 40
	$197 53

LIBRARY FUND.

Town of Weston, "Merriam Fund,"	$1,000 00
" " " "Fiske Fund,"	300 00
	$1,300 00

REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

It becomes our duty to present to the Town our Annual Report.

One member of this Board, Nathan Hagar, Esq., has laid aside the responsibilities you committed to him at the commencement of the year. He is not here to join with us in the report of our doings for the past year. He died, after a very brief sickness, Nov. 14th, 1863, at the age of 57 years. It is eleven years since he was chosen upon the Board of School Visitors, and since then, with the exception of two years, he filled a place in the Committee up to the time of his decease. He was a man of few words in public life, but of excellent judgment, and general intelligence. He uniformly favored a liberal provision for the education of all classes. He gave his efforts and influence promptly and cheerfully for good school accommodations, good teachers and a sufficient expenditure to retain good teachers in our schools. No one was quicker to detect the qualifications and fitness of a teacher for a given school than he. No one formed a more correct judgment of the condition of a school at any given time, or could better appreciate the difficulties a teacher might have to encounter than he. In cases of disturbance in schools, arising as they will in every town, more or less frequently, during a period of ten years, he was ever prepared to meet the difficulty with wise and judicious counsels, and his full share of responsibility with firmness of action. The utmost harmony of views and counsels

prevailed during all the time his survivors were associated with him in superintending the educational interests of the town.

And not only upon the School Committee will his valuable services be missed, but in town matters generally. Since 1848 he has most acceptably filled the office of Town Clerk. For several years he was on the Boards of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor; he was also upon the Committee for procuring plans and building the Town House, the new Alms-house and three of the School-houses. He has faithfully and honestly held the trusts which the town has committed to him, and his management in all its affairs has been conducted with as much attention and carefulness as any private interest could have received.

We think we may congratulate the citizens of Weston on account of the prosperous condition of our schools. Not only for the past year, but for several years past their success has been indicated not less by the quietness which has prevailed in every District, the harmony and kindly feeling which have subsisted between parents and the teachers assigned to their respective schools, and the mutual good understanding between parents and the Committee, founded on an assurance, on the part of the Committee, that every reasonable wish of a parent in regard to his or her children, or in regard to the school generally, shall be duly considered; that every suggestion shall receive careful attention, and on the part of parents that they will heartily coöperate with the Committee and teacher for the good of the school, than by the annual examinations of the several schools.

We deem it sufficient to give the summary of results gathered from repeated visits to the several schools, from the closing examinations, and from an attentive inspection of the daily record which is kept of every scholar. The attendance the first two terms was very gratifying. The previous high standard for regularity and punctuality was well maintained. But during the last term, all the schools, with one exception, were interrupted, and the classes broken by the introduction of the measles into the schools. At once the schools lost from one-half to three-fourths of the scholars. One school was reduced to four scholars, and suspended two weeks before the term expired. Probably about

one hundred and twenty-five scholars have had the measles the past winter. The result has been not only to break up the classes for the time being, but also to increase very considerably the number of tardy marks. Scholars, when they were able to return to school, had lost something of their ambition for punctuality as well as regularity. We are happy, however, to be able to add that the larger part have already recovered, and we trust all others will have recovered their usual health and vigor before the commencement of another school year, and that none of that ambition for punctuality and constancy will be wanting, which has given ours an enviable place among the schools of the Commonwealth.

By great exertions on the part of both teachers and scholars, the final examination, notwithstanding the interruption of the term's study, was very good. The scholars generally have made constant, uniform and satisfactory progress in their studies the past year. The Committee note with pleasure the prominence which has been given in several of the schools to the exercise of spelling, and would commend a most thorough course in the spelling-book to every school and every class. While there were some specimens of most excellent reading at the examinations, and marked evidences of improvement, we were led to the opinion that increased effort ought to be given to bring out modulation of voice, clearness and naturalness of articulation, and greater life and animation in the exercise.

The High School has had a year of almost uninterrupted prosperity. During the Spring Term the number of scholars was not so large nor the classes so numerous as to preclude their being heard every day. About twenty minutes for each recitation was the time allotted. The scholars increased the second and third terms, especially the third, to a number greater than the seats provided for them, and the classes multiplied so that recitations were heard but three times a week. Now we deem it far better for the school to reduce the number of scholars, and to bring the classes within the number which shall insure a recitation daily at a given hour for each class. This object will be accomplished by commencing the work of grading the school; that is, by retaining

in the District Schools for a longer period those who are not prepared to enter the classes in the High School. When this school was established, it was designed to receive all who had reached a certain age, whatever might be their attainments, not so much to relieve the crowded state of the District Schools, as to remove an objection to female teachers. It was urged that boys eleven years old and upward needed and required a male teacher. But the arrangement for female teachers in the District Schools proved so entirely successful, and the repeated instances of scholars remaining from choice under their instruction and government beyond the age abovementioned, led the Committee five years ago to fix the age at twelve instead of eleven, as heretofore. We then stated in our Report that scholarship should be the standard, not age, now it is proposed to pass by a gradual change from age to scholarship. The Committee have, therefore, fixed upon thirteen as the standard of admission by age alone, that is, no scholar who is not already a member of the school, will be admitted to the High School unless he has reached the age of thirteen except by examination. Any scholar under that age, who is found by examination to be qualified to enter the classes of the High School, shall be admitted whatever may be his age.

The expectations and wishes of the Committee have been fully met by Mr. Morrison the past year, and we have the most substantial evidence that he remains the unanimous choice of all the patrons of the High School.

We may also commend to your renewed confidence and hearty support and co-operation, the teachers in the several Districts. They have all rendered faithful service the past year—have loved their work, and performed it well.

We have been uncommonly favored, as a town, in securing and retaining such an excellent corps of female teachers. Some of them have already devoted six or eight years of their most faithful and efficient service in the same school, and others three or four years. They never have been more successful or have their labors been more highly appreciated in their respective Districts, than the past year.

The sum granted for schools, was . . .	$1,700 00
Received from the State School Fund, . . .	47 77
Paid Mr. Benjamin F. Morrison, . . .	$500 00
" Miss Emily A. Weston, ...	180 00
" Miss H. Maria Jones, ...	180 00
" Miss Caroline A. Bruce, ...	60 00
" Miss Emma Brown, ...	107 00
" Miss Annie D. Partridge, ...	175 00
" Miss Charlotte S. Coburn, ...	55 00
" Miss Mary C. Fiske, ...	107 00
" Miss Ellen M. Hoar, ...	180 00
" for care of rooms, ...	57 00
" for fuel, ...	146 77
The number of persons between the ages of five and fifteen years was, May 1st, 1863, . . .	239
Whole number of scholars in school First Term, was	237
" " " " Second Term, "	227
" " " " Third Term, "	244
Daily average attendance in the High School, "	43
" " " in school No. 1, "	28
" " " " No. 2, "	24
" " " " No. 3, "	16
" " " " No. 4, "	36
" " " " No. 5, "	17
" " " " No. 6, "	24

The percentage of attendance for the year stands as follows:—In the High School it was 92; No. 2, 89; No. 1, 85; No. 5, 84; No. 3, 83; No. 6, 82; No. 4, 80. The percentage of attendance is designed to exhibit the daily attendance, as compared with the average whole number of scholars. And that the schools may be compared one with another in this respect, it is desirable that all teachers should be governed by the same rule. From the records before us, we judge that they are not so governed at present. Scholars are not counted as such, of course, till they actually attend school, and cease to be members when they leave

before the term closes. But if during the term they are absent from sickness or any other cause, two, four, or six weeks continuously, should they be considered members of the school during their absence, or not? Some teachers would count them and some would omit their names; for the sake of uniformity, it is proposed that if scholars are absent continuously two weeks or more, their names should be thrown out for the time they are thus continuously absent, in getting the average whole number of scholars, from which, as compared with the daily average attendance, the percentage is obtained.

Twenty-five scholars have had perfect attendance for a single term, four only, two terms, and no one has been reported as having gone through the year without losing a day. The whole number of times scholars have been tardy, is 635. School No. 4 has had the least number of tardy marks, in proportion to its numbers, of any, and school No. 3 the largest number. School No. 4 has had about 1 for each scholar; No. 1 about $1\frac{1}{2}$; No. 5, $1\frac{3}{4}$; No. 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$; High School 3; No. 6, 4; No. 3, $6\frac{1}{2}$.

RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following Rules have been adopted by the School Committee for the present year, and teachers are expected carefully to observe them.

Rule 1. The holidays appointed by the State shall be observed by the schools as such, namely, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving day, Christmas day, Washington's birthday, Fast day, and the old Election day, the last Wednesday in May. No other days shall be taken as holidays, except by special permission of the School Committee.

Rule 2. All teachers shall punctually observe the hours appointed for opening and closing the schools, and no more than three minutes shall be allowed for scholars to assemble, after the appointed hour. *Provided*, that this rule shall not be so construed, as to prevent the teacher from the judicious exercise of the right to detain a pupil for a reasonable time, after the regular hour of dismissing school, either for the purpose of discipline, or to make up neglected lessons.

RULE 3. Teachers are required to be present at least TEN MINUTES before the time prescribed for commencing school. It shall also be their duty to give attention to the temperature and ventilation of the school-rooms, and give such instructions to the persons having charge of the rooms, as may be necessary in regard to the fires and cleanliness of the rooms; and also to report to the Committee any damage that may have been done to the room or furniture, and the name of the delinquent person, if known.

RULE 4. The morning exercises of all the schools shall commence with reading a portion of the Scriptures in the common version, to be followed by prayer, either the LORD'S PRAYER, or such suitable form as the teacher may adopt.

RULE 5. Teachers shall be required to fill out the registers each week, and if report cards are furnished, to send them, each week, to the parents of the scholars, who are requested to fill the column of absences, that if there has been any truancy, it may be detected.

RULE 6. Teachers are not to depend on the report which scholars may give of their studies or deportment; but keep a separate and distinct account themselves.

RULE 7. Teachers shall aim at such discipline in their schools as would be exercised by a kind, judicious parent in his family; and ahall avoid corporeal punishment in all cases where good order can be preserved by milder means; but if, in the judgment of the teacher, for the good of the scholar or the school, it becomes necessary to inflict corporeal punishment, the teacher shall report to the Committee, at the first opportunity after the case, and the necessity for the punishment.

RULE 8. At least twenty minutes a day, four times a week, shall be devoted to writing.

RULE 9. Teachers shall not be allowed to advance their classes from one book to another without consulting the Committee.

RULE 10. In cases where children fail to be supplied with books, a written notice of the book or books needed, shall be sent to the parent or guardian of the scholar; and after a suitable time, the teacher, if the scholar is still without books, shall send a similar notice to the Committee, who will furnish books, according to the provision of the statute.

RULE 11. The boundaries of the several schools shall remain the same as before the districts were dissolved.

CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,
EDWIN HOBBS,
ISAAC COBURN,
} *School Committee.*

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